GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1372
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2007
WATER AND AIR POLLUTION
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the process of industrialization and liberalization have acted as remote factors for causing water and air pollution in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the efforts proposed to be made by the Government to undertake ameliorative measures to curb such pollution and prevent its recurrence?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a)to(c) The developmental activities, depending on their nature and scale, may affect the environment including air and water quality, if pollution control measures are not incorporated in the projects for compliance of various emission and effluent norms. The liberalization policy has not exempted any activity from the environmental laws.

The steps taken to curb pollution and prevent its recurrence include the following :

Notification of general and industry specific emission and effluent standards;
Industries to obtain "Consent for Establishment" as well as "Consent to Operate" under the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 from the concerned State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) prior to carrying out operations;
Environmental Impact Assessment of developmental projects and preparation of Environmental Management Plan as per the provisions of the Environmental Impact Assessment notification of September, 2006;
Adoption of cleaner technologies and use of improved fuel quality;
Regular monitoring of industrial units for environmental compliance;
Issuance of directions in cases of industries not complying with environmental norms;